

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

IN RE:	§	CHAPTER 11
	§	
	§	CASE NO. 20-50805-rbk
	§	
KRISJENN RANCH, LLC, et.al.	§	(Jointly Administered)

MOTION TO LIFT AUTOMATIC STAY

TO THE HONORABLE RONALD B. KING, UNITED STATES CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Preciliana Jose Flores (“Interested Party” or “Flores”) files this motion for relief from the automatic stay in order to pursue his personal injury claim against KRISJENN RANCH, LLC (“Debtors”) and in support respectfully shows as follows:

LOCAL RULE 4001(a)(12) NOTICE

This pleading request relief that may be adverse to your interests.

If no timely response is filed within 14 days of Service the relief requested herein may be granted without a hearing being held.

A timely filed response is necessary for a hearing to be held.

RELIEF REQUESTED

Pursuant to of 11 U.S.C Section 362, (d)(1), Local Bankruptcy Rules of the United States District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014, Interested Party respectfully requests that this Court enter an order lifting the automatic stay of his action against Krisjenn Ranch, LLC. now pending in the 25th Judicial District Court, Gaudalupe County, Texas, captioned *Preciliano Jose Flores v. Larry Wright and Krisjenn Ranch, LLC.*, Cause No. 20-1459-CV-C, Guadalupe County, Texas (the “State Court Action”). In support of this motion, Interested Party, upon information and belief, states by his attorneys that Debtors have

available insurance coverage against liability for the claims in the State Court Action. Therefore, relief from the stay will not prejudice the debtor or the bankruptcy estate.

I.
RELEVANT BACKGROUND

The State Court Action is one for personal injuries sustained by Interested Party who on March 13, 2019, was hired Plaintiff to do fencing and other work on Defendant's ranch, Krisjenn Ranch, LLC. Defendant, Larry Wright, while operating a tractor, crashed into Preciliano Jose Flores, causing serious bodily injuries. A copy of the petition in the State Court Action is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein for all purposes.

Upon information and belief, the Debtor has available insurance coverage against liability for the claims in the State Court Action. Interested Party seeks to proceed with the State Court Action solely for discovery purposes and/or to recover any insurance coverage.

In the event a judgment, assessment or recovery is entered or obtained against Krisjenn Ranch, LLC in favor of the Interested Party in the State Court Action, the Interested Party agrees that he will recover only from the insurance company covering Krisjenn Ranch, LLC and not from the debtor or the debtor's estate. Interested Party further agrees not to attempt to enforce all or any part of said judgment, assessment or recovery against Krisjenn Ranch, LLC obtained in the State Court Action which exceeds the amount of coverage provided by the policy of insurance and agrees not to attempt to recover any parts of the judgment, assessment or recovery in the State Court Action from the personal assets of Krisjenn Ranch, LLC.

By reason of the foregoing, Krisjenn Ranch, LLC's total exposure in the State Court Action is limited to the extent of the policy limits only of its primary and excess policies of insurance. For the foregoing reasons, and the judicial economy that will be served by adjudicating the Interested Party's claim to a liquidated sum, the Court should lift the automatic stay with regard to

the State Court Action, and allow the Interested Party to pursue his claim against Krisjenn Ranch, LLC in the State Court Action, limited solely to obtaining a final, executable judgment, assessment or recovery in the State Court Action in an amount not in excess of the policy limits of the foregoing available insurance coverage of Krisjenn Ranch, LLC.

II. ARGUMENTS & AUTHORITIES

U.S.C. § 362(d)(1) provides that the “court shall grant relief from stay provided under subsection (a) of this section, such as terminating, annulling, modifying, or conditioning such stay... for cause.” Further, “actions which are only remotely related to the case under Title 11 or which involve rights of third parties often will be permitted to proceed in another forum.” 2 Collier on Bankruptcy § 362.07[3]. The test for whether a stay should be lifted to permit state court actions to proceed involves consideration of the following factors: (a) whether great prejudice to either the bankruptcy estate or the debtor will result from the continuation of the state proceedings; (b) whether the hardship to the non-bankrupt party by maintenance of the stay considerably outweighs the hardship to the debtor of permitting proceedings to go forward; and (c) whether the non-debtor party has the likelihood of prevailing on the merits. *See e.g. In Re Pro Weekly, Inc.*, 60 B.R. 824, 826 (D. N.E. Ill. 1986); *In Re Salisbury*, 123 B.R. 913, 915 (S.D. Ala. 1990); *In Re Bock Laundry Machine Co.*, 37 B.R. 564, 566 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1984). Here, each factor favors the Interested Party. In addition, “a decision to lift the stay is not an adjudication of the validity or avoidability of the claim, but [rather, a decision to lift the stay is merely] a determination that [his] claim is sufficiently plausible to allow its prosecution elsewhere.” *See Grella v. Salem Five Cent Savings Bank*, 42 F.3d 26, 34 (1994).

Continuation of the State Court Action will not result in any prejudice or hardship to

the Debtor or the bankruptcy estate. It will not diminish the estate of the Debtor because the Debtor's insurance covers both the defense of the claim and the covered damages.

The Interested Party has already suffered significant harm as a result of Krisjenn Ranch, LLC's negligence, and will be further prejudiced by awaiting resolution of the Debtor's bankruptcy petition before proceeding for recovery against Krisjenn Ranch, LLC. Therefore, since the relief from the stay will have no effect on the bankruptcy estate, the relief requested by Interested Party should be granted.

Finally, resolving the personal injury action will have the added advantage of quantifying or liquidating the Interested Party's claim. To the extent any verdict or judgment against Krisjenn Ranch, LLC (save and except awards for punitive damages), in the State Court Action exceeds Debtor's available insurance coverage, the Interested Party agrees not to pursue Krisjenn Ranch, LLC's personal estate or assets. Therefore, there can be no prejudice to Debtor by lifting the stay. There is irreparable prejudice to the Interested Party on the other hand, if he is denied his right to pursue his claims of serious injuries and derivative damages in the State Court Action. Finally, Debtor has no equity in the subject insurance policy, and thus the policy is not needed for an effective reorganization.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this Court lift the automatic stay and allow the State Court Action to proceed. *See In Re Cohen*, 141 B.R. 1, 1-2 (Bank. D.Mass. 1992); *In Re L.G. Salem Ltd. Partnership*, 140 B.R. 932, 935 (Bankr. D.Mass 1992); *Worcester County National Bank v. Resnik*, 9 B.R. 891, 892 (Bankr. D. Mass. 1981).

III.
CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the Interested Party respectfully requests this Honorable Court grant the Motion to Lift Automatic Stay, allow the Interested Party to proceed with his personal injury and derivative claims lawsuit against Krisjenn Ranch, LLC and grant such relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

CHARLES S. DUNN

State Bar No. 06241200

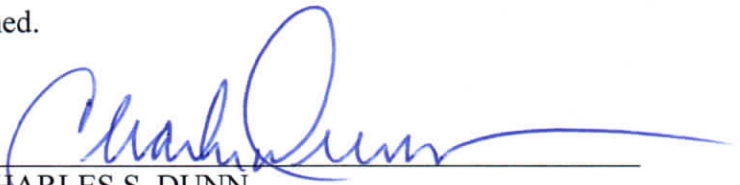
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***Service by e-mail to this address only**

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

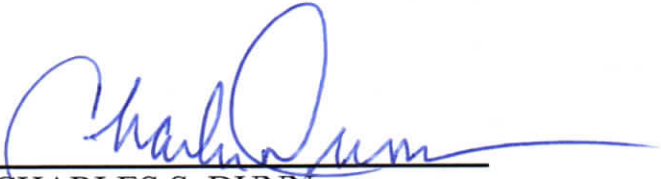
I hereby certify that I attempted to confer with Defendants' counsel regarding the contents of this motion and no agreement could be reached.



CHARLES S. DUNN

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing instrument has been sent via the United States Western District Court's CM/ECF filing system on February 22, 2022.



CHARLES S. DUNN

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